

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9973

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN

USDOCOSOUTH

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

DIA WASHDC//DI-5//

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 3072

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT PFOR CY

SUBJ: EOKA-B STRENGTH IN LIMASSOL DISTRICT

1. ALTHOUGH MANY OF WORST MAINLAND GREEK OFFICERS ARE NOW OFF CYPRUS, EOKA-B FLOURISHES UNCHALLENGED IN SOME AREAS, LIMASSOL DISTRICT BEING ONE.

2. LIMASSOL MAYOR, PHOTIS COLAKIDES, TOLD AMB SEPT 12 THAN IN LIMASSOL EOKA-B HAVE CHOSEN TO GROUP INTO A SPECIAL NATIONAL GUARD BATTALION. BATTALION CONSISTS OF APPROXIMATELY 1000 MEN WITH ITS OWN OFFICERS AND IDENPENDENT COMMAND. IT IS DIVIDED INTO THREE UNITS CONTROLLING RESPECTIVELY THE EASTERN AND WESTERN ENTRANCES TO CITY AND MOUNTAIN JUST TO NORTH. EOKA-B BATTALION HAS CHECKPOINTS WHICH CONTROL TRAFFIC IN AND OUT OF THE CITY. COLAKIDES STATED THAT MID-AUGUST WHEN CLERIDES WAS REPORTED TO BE FORMING HIS GOVERNMENT AND EOKA-B DID NOT LIKE
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WHAT IT WAS HEARING, IT MOVED BATTALION IN AND TOOK CONTROL

OF ALL PUBLIC BUILDINGS IN LIMASSOL (INCLUDING MAYOR'S OFFICE).

3. COLAKIDES DID NOT KNOW HOW MANY EOKA-B THERE WERE IN LIMASSOL WHO HAD NOT OPTED TO STAY IN UNIFORM AND JOIN SPECIAL BATTALION, BUT HE WAS UNHAPPILY CONFIDENT THERE WERE MANY. UNTIL A FEW DAYS AGO, LIMASSOL POLICE HAD ALSO BEEN CONTROLLED BY A KNOWN EOKA-B OFFICER. THIS NOW RECTIFIED ONLY TO EXTENT THAT AN OFFICER THOUGHT TO BE RESPONSIVE TO MININT HAD BEEN SENT IN OVER HIS HEAD.

4. DESCRIBING PROBLEMS POSED FOR HIS ACTIVITIES AS MAYOR BY EOKA-B DE FACTO CONTROL OF LIMASSOL, COLAKIDES SAID, "I WISH THEY WERE NOT THERE BUT I OBVIOUSLY HAVE TO HAVE CHANNELS TO DEAL WITH THEM." COLAKIDES THINKS CLERIDES NOT ACTING VIGOROUSLY ENOUGH ON LIMASSOL PROBLEM, PERHAPS BECAUSE HE HAS MANAGED WIN A LARGER DEGREE OF CONTROL IN NICOSIA. MAYOR'S VISIT TO NICOSIA WAS IN PART PROMPTED BY INTENTION RAISE THIS WITH MININT KOSSIS.
CRAWFORD

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